MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X
BACK TO THEIR ROUTINE AT LAST★
*THIS STORY IS A WORK OF FICTION. RESEMBLANCE TO ANY REAL PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR TITLES IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.
TSUBAKI-KUN.
HERE,
HM?

MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

植芝理一
UESHIBA RIICHI

PREVIOUSLY KISSING IS OUT, MUCH LESS ANYTHING BEYOND THAT. STILL, AKIRA TSUBAKI AND MAKOTO URAME ARE BOYFRIEND AND GIRLFRIEND. THE ONLY COUPLING THING THEY DO IS A DAILY ROUTINE IN WHICH TSUBAKI TASTES URAME'S SMOOL. BUT "SMOOL" IS THE PRECIOUS BOND THAT CONNECTS THE TWO OF THEM. TSUBAKI AND URAME WERE INVITED FUN BOWLING, WHEN YOSHIKAWA ARRIVED AND SUGGESTED THAT URAME HAD TO KISS TSUBAKI IF SHE LOST. URAME WAS SO FLUSTERED BY THE SCHEME THAT TSUBAKI ENDED UP WINNING. BUT WHEN HE SAW URAME'S TEARS, HE INSISTED THAT HE HAD LOST. AND SO THEIR KISS WAS PUT ON HOLD...

AND THE FLAKES ARE SO BIG.
IT'S COMING DOWN HARDER.
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!
YEAH.
SEE YA.
URABE.
WE MIGHT END UP DOING OUR ROUTINE IN THE SNOW.
TOMOR-ROW.
MIGHT ACTUALLY STICK.
THIS SNOW
YEAH.
SIGN: KAZAMIDAI SHOPPING DISTRICT
POP

Sala

UH...
HI.
IT...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
OH...

ガ
GRAB
URABE-SAN...
UH,
YES...
STORE TOP: DRUGSTORE
WH-WHAT'S THE MATTER?!
AH...
HEY...
CAFE COFFEE
STORE BOTTOM: MATSUMOTO KIYOSHI
PANT...
PANT...

...URABE-SAN.
UH...
YES!
ARE...
ARE YOU OKAY?!
HUH?!
WHA—
ER...
WHAT'S WRONG?!
HEY...
GOSH, HOW EMBAR-RASS-ING...
IF I'M CRYING LIKE THIS...
I...
CAN'T GO HOME NOW...
UH...
UM...
URABE-SAN...
YES?
YE—

A...
A BATH?!
WOULD YOU TAKE A BATH WITH ME?
DOOR CURTAIN: BATHS
WOW...
I NEVER EVEN KNEW
THAT THERE WAS A PUBLIC BATH HOUSE IN THIS TOWN.
GROUND SIGN: HANA BATHS
EH?
AH...
HUH?!
COME ON, LET'S GO IN.

SWOOSH
CLICK
TWO, PLEASE.
SURE.
POSTER: THE __TH OF EVERY MONTH IS BATH HOUSE DAY♪
THIS HAS TURNED INTO A WEIRD EXPERIENCE...
SHOOF!!!
HOOOAH...

HEY...
HE—
WHA—
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
くん
くんくん…
YOINK
ヒョイ
HUH?
IT SMELLS LIKE...
MY HIGH SCHOOL DAYS...
YEAH...
SPLASH
SPLASH
.....

HAVE YOU CALMED DOWN?
I FEEL BETTER...
WHEW...
OH...
THE ONE YOU TOLD ME ABOUT?
OH...
HUH?!
I TOLD YOU ABOUT HIM?
I WENT OUT WITH HIM IN HIGH SCHOOL.
HUH?
SO...
UM...
THAT GUY
YOU WERE WITH,
RIGHT BEFORE YOU CALLED OUT TO ME...

YEAH.
THAT'S RIGHT...
I BUMPED INTO HIM...
BUT TODAY,
AND YOU HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER SINCE...
YOU SAID HE WENT TO COLLEGE IN KANSAI,
TO BE HERE VISITING HIS FAMILY.
AND HE JUST HAPPENED
HE'S WORKING IN KANSAI,
.....
SO MUCH THAT YOU CRIED?
AND ALL THESE EMOTIONS WELLED UP...
BUT AS WE WERE TALKING, I REMEMBERED SOME THINGS...
WE SPOKE JUST A LITTLE,
YEAH.

WE BOTH
KNEW NOTHING ABOUT EACH OTHER...
AFTER ALL.
THE FIRST PERSON YOU DATED IN HIGH SCHOOL
IS ALWAYS SPECIAL
HE WAS
THE FIRST BOY I EVER DATED,
AFTER ALL.
MAYBE I'LL JUST TELL HER...
BLUSH
DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?
HM?
YOU SHOULD REALLY
TREASURE THAT FEELING.
YOU SAID...
YOU HAVE SOMEONE YOU LIKE, TOO,
RIGHT?
YES...

THE PERSON I'M GOING OUT WITH
IS TSUBAKI-KUN.
...IT'S TSUBAKI-KUN.
HUH?
WHAT?!
SPLASH
7"7... BLEED.

I'M DATING
YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER...
...YES.
GOING OUT WITH AKIRA?!
YOU'RE...
REALLY?
IS THAT REALLY TRUE?
..... IT'S TRUE.
AS JUST HIS CLASSMATE SEVERAL TIMES...
WHAT?
WHAT?
SA-TOSHI-?!
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, YOU DID COME TO OUR HOUSE
NO...
WAIT A MINUTE...
AND AKIRA
HAVE YOU
KISSED ALREADY?

NO,
NOT YET.
WE HAVEN'T,
AND...
JUST LIKE THE MAN YOU WERE WITH TODAY,
HE'S THE FIRST PERSON I'VE EVER DATED...
URABE-SAN.

PLEASE
BE GOOD TO MY BROTHER.
SO...GOOSE...
ニャポ。
I SHOULD ASK THE SAME...
SPLASH
NO...
AH...
UM...

BE GOOD TO ME!
PLEASE
WOW...

THERE'S A LOT ON THE GROUND...
IT REALLY SNOWED A LOT
WHILE WE WERE IN THE BATH.
OKAY.
SEE YOU LATER.
I WARMED UP IN THE BATH,
SO I'LL BE FINE.
WILL YOU...
BE OKAY GETTING HOME?

AKIKO

OH...
SIS!

THE SNOW IS GETTING HEAVIER, TOO.
YOU WERE LATE COMING HOME.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
SO I CAME [illegible] YOU.

THAT SHIFTY LOT
COVERED

OH...

LOOKING AT THIS EMPTY LOT
REMINDS ME OF YOU, SIS.

WHAT IS THAT?
HUH?

WHEN WE GOT HERE, YOU SAID, "I'M FIRST!"
YOU WOKE ME UP AND BROUGHT ME HERE TO PLAY.
ONE MORNING AFTER IT SNOWED,

REMEMBER?
WHEN WE WERE LITTLE...

TO LEAVE MY FOOTPRINT IN THE PURE WHITE SNOW.

FOR SOME REASON,
IT MADE ME HAPPY.

OH...
I WAS THE FIRST ONE

PLEASE
BE GOOD TO ME!

AKIRA.
WHAT'S UP, SIS?
HM?

...BE MY BROTHER?
WILL THE FIRST ONE TO LEAVE HIS FOOTPRINT ON HER...

WHAT...
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!
DAH!!
SHOVE
SPLAT

HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'LL BE
THE FIRST BOY TO LEAVE A FOOTPRINT,
SO YOU'D BETTER STRAIGHTEN UP!
A CHILLY SHOW OF SUPPORT! GOOD LUCK, LITTLE BROTHER!!

MAGAZINE TITLE: PHOTO AGE MONTHLY

MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

CHAPTER 86 MYSTERIOUS SHUTTER CHANCE II

植芝理一
UESHIBA RIICHI

2ND PLACE TSUKASA HASEGAWA (16), TOKYO

COMMENTS

PREVIOUSLY

KISSING IS OUT MUCH TO ANYTHING. SEITOKAI-TAIKAI, 3RD., AKIRA TSUBAKI AND AKIMOTO-KUN ARE BOYFRIEND AND GIRLFRIEND. THE ONLY COURTESIES THING THEY DO? A DAILY ROUTINE IN WHICH TSUBAKI TASTES MUKAI'S CHICKS. BUT "CHICKS" IS THE PRECIOUS ECHO THAT CONNECTS THE TWO OF THEM. ON A SHOWY DAY, UMAE WENT TO A PUBLIC BATH WITH AKIRA'S OLDER SISTER. YOUNG, UMAE HEARD THE STORY OF YOUNG'S HIGH SCHOOL LOVE, AND FINALLY TOLD HER THAT SHE AND AKIRA ARE DATING. AFTER LEARNING THAT HER OWN BROTHER WAS THE FIRST TO TRY HIS FOOTPRINT, UN-NER TSUBOI-SAME AKIRA A SOMEWHAT ROUGH SHOW OF ENCOURAGEMENT WHEN HE CAME TO WALK HER HOME.

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GET DRESSED
WHILE I'M GONE, OKAY?
AND MAKE SOME COFFEE.
I'LL GO DOWNSTAIRS
I GOT
A GREAT SHOT.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

YES?
HASEGAWA-KUN...

TWIN TAIL
STRIKES

HAVE REGULAR GREEN TEA THAN COFFEE?
OH...
WOULD YOU RATHER
OKAY.
GREEN TEA IT IS.
I'LL BE BACK.
I THINK I'D PREFER GREEN TEA.
UH...
YEAH...
HUH?
SUWANO-SAN...
HM?
...SURE IS STRANGE.
KA-CHAK
THAT LOOK I GAVE HIM
WAS MY BEST WEAPON, TOO...
NO REACTION AT ALL...
REALLY.
THAT HASEGAWA-KUN...

SUWANO-SAN..
YOU'RE ACTUALLY KIND OF SCATTER-BRAINED, AREN'T YOU?
OH...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
IS BUTTONED UP WRONG.
YOUR SHIRT
THAT ORDINARY GIRLS MAKE.
BUT YOU MAKE THE SAME SORTS OF MISTAKES
I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE PERFECT IN EVERY WAY.
SINCE YOU'RE SO PRETTY,
EH?
YEP.
HEY...
CLICK-O
.....

THAT LOOK JUST NOW
WAS REALLY CUTE!
KA-CHAK
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP TODAY.
WELL,
I'LL LET YOU KNOW
WHEN I PLAN ANOTHER SHOOT!
YOU'RE THE BEST PHOTO SUBJECT OUT THERE.
SUWANO-SAN, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED,
I WANT TO CAPTURE LOTS OF DIFFERENT SIDES OF YOU FROM NOW ON, TOO.

SUWANO-SAN!
YOU...
NO,
NOT THAT LONG.
HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING LONG?!
YOU SHOWED UP REALLY EARLY!
OH, YEAH!
DID YOU SEE
THIS MONTH'S "PHOTO AGE"?
YES, I DID.

I WAS ABLE
TO GET SECOND PLACE!
THANKS TO YOU,
SMILE!
OKAY,
パシャッ
CLICK
SO LET'S TAKE
NEXT TIME, WE'LL AIM FOR FIRST!
LOTS OF GREAT SHOTS AGAIN TODAY!

RING RING!
I'D FOUND
R
MATSU-CHAN JOB NA-
IF SHE'S LIKE SO
SHOUT

HERE.
FOR YOU,
SUWANO-SAN.
IT'S STILL A LITTLE COLD OUT...
BUT I GOT ICE CREAM.
IS THAT OKAY?
SURE, THAT'S FINE.
YOU KNOW...
WHEN WE'RE EATING ICE CREAM TOGETHER LIKE THIS,
IT'S LIKE WE'RE ON A DATE, HUH?
IF I EVER GET A GIRLFRIEND,
I WONDER IF I'LL EVER
DO THINGS LIKE THIS WITH HER...
HUH?

BEEP
ピ
BEEP
ピ
I WONDER WHY...
IN ALL THESE PICTURES,
YOU HAVE A CHEERFUL EXPRESSION,
BUT SOMEHOW,
YOU LOOK KIND OF UNHAPPY.
IS IT JUST...
MY IMAGINATION?

BU—
BUT WHY?
YOU ARE...?!
YOU DON'T KNOW?
NO, I DON'T.
N—
IT'S NOT YOUR IMAGINATION.
I REALLY AM
UNHAPPY TODAY.
I CONSIDER YOU THE PERFECT SUBJECT, SO YOU'RE LIKE MY DREAM!
TH—
THAT'S BECAUSE ...
BUT AS FAR AS DATING GOES, YOU'RE WAY OUT OF MY LEAGUE!
YOU DON'T EVEN CONSIDER ME, DO YOU?
BUT WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT GIRLFRIENDS ...
"IF I EVER GET A GIRLFRIEND."
YOU JUST SAID

THEN...
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT MY FEELINGS?
HUH?
WHAT...
WHAT ARE YOUR FEELINGS,
SUWANO-SAN?
STAND
WELL, AT FIRST I WAS JUST CURIOUS,
BUT NOW...
DO YOU THINK I WOULD PUT UP
WITH ALL THESE PHOTOSHOOTS,
IF I DIDN'T LIKE YOU?!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
DASH!
FORGET IT!
NO MORE PHOTO-SHOOTS!
ドカッ
THWACK
THERE'S...
A FENCE THERE...
AH...
SUWANO-SAN!
WHAT?!

SUWANO-SAN!
THUD
ARE...
ARE YOU OKAY?!
OW...
I BUMPED MY NOSE...
REALLY...
YOU'RE A LOT MORE SCATTER-BRAINED THAN I THOUGHT...

AH...
OH, NO!
MY NOSE IS BLEED-ING...
GO AHEAD.
TAKE A PICTURE.
HUH?

CAPTURE WHAT I LOOK LIKE RIGHT NOW.
YOU WANT TO CAPTURE LOTS OF DIFFERENT SIDES OF ME, DON'T YOU?
SO GO AHEAD.

I...
WHOA!
!
I...
I'M SORRY!
WASN'T THINKING...
JUMP

JUST AN ORDINARY GIRL, HUH?
YOU'RE REALLY
IT'S LIKE...
BUT...
SO...
YOU JUST NOW NOTICED?
YES, I AM.
YOU'D BETTER TAKE RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THAT
KISS♥

IS IT JUST MY IMAGINATION? SUWANO-SAN SEEMS...
A LOT PRETTIER THAN SHE DID BEFORE.
HM?
WHAT IS IT, TSUBAKI-KUN?
HUH?
OH...
NOTHING ...

WHAT?
THAT'S RIGHT
TSUBAKI-KUN
OH.
PRETEND THAT NEVER HAPPENED?
COULD YOU
WHAT I SAID TO YOU BEFORE...
I WON'T
BE ABLE TO DO THAT ANYMORE.
WHEN I SAID
IF I COULD GO OUT WITH YOU.
YOU KNOW
YOU COULD MAKE ME YOUR NUMBER 2.
I WOULDN'T MIND BEING NUMBER 2.
YOU'D BETTER TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY.
OH...
WHAT YOU SAID TO ME BEFORE?

BECAUSE ...
I HAVE
A BOYFRIEND NOW.
...OF COURSE,
HEY!
ALL DONE
WITH YOUR CLASS DUTIES?
OKA!
URABE!!
I DON'T ACTUALLY
THINK THAT AT ALL!!!
SO THAT'S WHAT WAS GOING ON...
I GET IT...
DISAPPOINTING...
THAT'S JUST A LITTLE

THERE.

MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING BEHIND HIS SISTER'S SMILE. WHAT COULD IT BE?

HMM...

HEY.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

HUH?

OH

JUST TO UENO'S.

WHOA!

PSSHT

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

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MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

植芝理一
UESHIBA RIICHI

CHAPTER 87: MYSTERIOUS COLOGNE

IT'S COLOGNE.
OH, THIS?
SPRAY ON ME?!
WHAT DID YOU JUST
ALSO,
WHA—
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO CLINGY?
A GIFT?
THAT'S A GIFT FROM ME.
YOU KNOW,
YOU'RE AT THE AGE WHERE YOU START TO WORRY ABOUT PERSONAL GROOMING,
RIGHT?
WHAT'S GOING ON,
ALL OF A SUDDEN?
HAVE A GOOD TIME.
I GUESS.
THANKS.
WELL,
I'LL BE GOING.
HMM...
FOR A BOY YOUR AGE.
IT'S THE PERFECT SCENT
SIMPLE AND RE-FRESHING.
GO ON, TAKE IT.

WITH URABE-SAN♪
GOOD LUCK ON YOUR DATE
NIYA~
GRIN♥
IS THE SAME TYPE THAT I GAVE MY BOYFRIEND IN MY THIRD YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL...
THAT COLOGNE...
OLD JACKET
HE USUALLY DRESSES MUCH MORE ROUGHLY.
WHEN HE GOES TO UENO-KUN'S HOUSE,
JEANS HE WEARS AROUND THE HOUSE
WORN-OUT SNEAKERS
JACKET HE SPENT ALL HIS NEW YEAR'S ALLOWANCE ON
IT'S GOTTA BE A DATE!
IF HE'S GOING OUT ALL DRESSED UP LIKE THAT,
BRAND NEW PANTS
LEATHER SHOES HE ALMOST NEVER WEARS

IS AT THAT AGE NOW...
MY LITTLE BROTHER
I'VE NEVER PUT ON COLOGNE BEFORE...
WHAT'S IT LIKE?
PSHH
PSHH
GOOD LUCK, AKIRA!

URABE!
SHOOK
SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT.
TSUBAKI-KUN!
TO GET READY, RIGHT?
GIRLS HAVE TO DO MORE
IT'S OKAY.
SORRY I'M ALWAYS LATE.
A01
THEN,
LET'S GO EAT SOMETHING.
NO.
DID YOU EAT LUNCH ALREADY?
TICK
TICK
TICK

THEY'RE PROBABLY HAVING LUNCH...
RIGHT ABOUT NOW,
1:30, HUH...
IT'S FULL OF LAND MINES THAT BLOW ALL LOGIC AWAY♪
WHEN I'M ALONE WITH YOU IN THIS CLASSROOM♪
SO WATCH YOUR STEP ♪
WE WENT FOR KARAOKE
Jumbo ECHO
COME TO THINK OF IT, THE FIRST TIME MY BOYFRIEND WORE THAT COLOGNE ON A DATE

OKAY,
NEXT!
HURRY UP AND
PICK A SONG!
YOU'RE UP, ARIMA-KUN!
OH.
OKAY!
SNIFF
SNIFF
I REALLY WISH YOU'D STEP ON ONE♪
BUT,
TO BE HONEST,
COME ON.
DON'T BE SILLY.
SOME-HOW,
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE STAINED
WITH MY COLOR...
ARIMA-KUN,
YOU'RE WEARING THE COLOGNE I GAVE YOU?
YEAH.
SINCE YOU GAVE IT TO ME AND ALL.

THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I EVER GAVE HIM A KISS MYSELF...
SMOOCH
ちゅ

WOW.
THIS IS REALLY RARE...
カラオケ
IF SHE SMELLS HIS COLOGNE,
AND THEY GO INTO A KARAOKE ROOM TOGETHER...
I WONDER IF THE SAME THING WILL HAPPEN TO THOSE TWO...
I GUESS... I WAS INTOXICATED BY THE SCENT OF THE COLOGNE I GAVE HIM...

I GUESS IT'S A NICE CHANGE.
NONE OF THE MOVIES LOOKED VERY INTERESTING,
WELL,
AND WE WENT BOWLING NOT LONG AGO.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DRINK?
GOING TO KARAOKE WITH YOU, I MEAN.
ISN'T THIS THE FIRST TIME?
YEAH.
ICED COFFEE
SCREEN: MOMOKA HANA'S NEW SINGLE "LOVE IS A CROSSFIRE!"

MAY I PLACE AN ORDER?
YES,
OKAY
I'LL ORDER
AN ICED COFFEE
AND A GINGER ALE.

YES
THANK YOU
SNIFF
SNIFF
SOME POPCORN.
ALSO,
AND POCKY
SNIFF
SNIFF
WHA—
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HUH?
KA-CHIZZ
ヤッ
TICK
TICK
TICK
THAT'S RIGHT...
I REMEMBER NOW...
O—
OKAY
READY TO PICK SOME SONGS?
MENU
SURE
SORRY
OH...
FWIP

AND AFTER THAT I...
I KISSED ARIMA-KUN
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME
AND THEN I PUSHED HIM DOWN.
PUT MY ARMS AROUND HIS NECK
EVEN IF I WAS INTOXICATED BY THE COLOGNE, I MUST HAVE BEEN CRAZY BACK THEN!
WHOA! WHOA! WHOA!

THIS KIND OF THING
DON'T LIKE DOING
IN KARAOKE ROOMS.
TSUBAKI!
BUT THEN, ARIMA-KUN SAID...
GRAB
I'M GLAD
WELL...
THAT YOU'D DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT WITH ME.
LET'S JUST
SAVE IT
FOR THE RIGHT TIME AND PLACE...
OKAY?
YOU...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I... I'M SORRY

THE SERIOUS TYPE...
ARIMA-KUN REALLY WAS
OKAY.
STOPPING ME THEN...
HE DID THE RIGHT THING
OH...
HAD BEEN AKIRA...
BUT IF THAT
AND PUSHED HIM DOWN
GRAB
MADE A MOVE ON HIM
AND URABE-SAN

GO ALONG WITH IT...
HE WOULD DEFINITELY
SO WEAK-WILLED
THAT BOY

...GO ALL THE WAY...
AND URABE WON'T HAVE ANY MORE "FIRST TIMES"...
NEITHER WILL AKIRA...

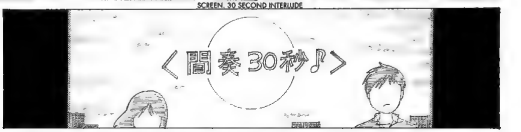
SO THEY MIGHT EVEN...
URABE-SAN HAS
A PRETTY NICE BODY,
I FOUND OUT AT THE BATH HOUSE

JOLT

SCREEN: THE SETTING SUN ON OUR WAY HOME♪ SHINES ON US LIKE A SPOTLIGHT♪

YOU'RE SUCH A COWARD.
IT'S NOT FAIR♪
BUT WHEN I'M NOT LOOKING AT YOU,
YOU'RE STARING AT ME♪
I'M LOOKING AROUND AS WE WALK
BECAUSE I'M AFRAID TO LOOK INTO YOUR EYES♪

SCREEN: 30 SECOND INTERLUDE



TSUBAKI-KUN,
DID YOUR SISTER
GIVE YOU COLOGNE?
HUH?

IS IT WEIRD?
NO.
IT SMELLS VERY GOOD
ACTUALLY
OH...
YEAH, SHE DID.
AS I WAS LEAVING, SHE HANDED IT TO ME, SAYING IT WAS A GIFT.
YOU SMELL DIFFERENT
THAN USUAL.

YOUR SISTER
IS CHEERING YOU ON.
I'M SURE

PLEASE

UH...
NOTHING
NEVER MIND

CHEERING ME ON?

I WONDER IF HIS SISTER IS CHEERING US ON...
FLICKER
はやく あなたの新
開けちゃいたい♪
SCREEN: I WANT TO OPEN A NEW DOOR INTO YOU SOON♪

BE GOOD TO MY BROTHER.

OH...
THE INTERLUDE'S OVER.
I WANT TO OPEN
SCREEN: I WANT TO OPEN A NEW DOOR INTO YOU SOON♪
はやく あなたの新しい扉を♪
開けちゃいたい♪
A NEW DOOR
INTO YOU SOON♪

SCHLP
SHOOM
POK
POP
PLEASE BE GOOD TO ME.
I SHOULD ASK THE SAME.
HIS SISTER...

ニヤッ
CRACKLE...
YEEK...!
WITH? ECHO?
HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG
URABE?

BEFORE YOU LEFT TODAY
HEY, TSUBAKI-KUN...
YOU KNOW, YOUR SISTER...
SHE'S NOT SO MUCH A SISTER
AS A MOTHER TO YOU...
HUH?
SO ESSEN-TIALLY,
SHE DID KIND OF TAKE MY MOM'S PLACE...
MY MOM WASN'T AROUND
HUH?
YEAH..
SHE NUZZLED UP TO MY CHEEK.
ANNE'S SHE GAVE ME THE COLOGNE.
DID YOU...
TOUCH...
YOUR SISTER IN ANY WAY?

TROT TROT
AKIRA!
GIVE ME BACK
THAT COLOGNE!
WHAT?
I'M HOME.
URABE WAS RIGHT.
SHE'S NOT SO MUCH MY SISTER
AS MY MOTHER...
I KNOW A LOT OF IMPORTANT THINGS HAPPEN TO YOU IN HIGH SCHOOL...
BUT WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL IS YOUR STUDIES!
AS FOR THIS,
YOU DON'T NEED IT YET, SO I'LL HOLD ON TO IT!
MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X
END OF CHAPTER 87
CAN BE SO UNREASONABLE?
CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE!!

IN PRIVATE, SHE'S A STYLISH GLASSES-WEARING GIRL
SHOOP
WHIP
MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X
SUWANO-SAN,
WHEN YOU PUT ON YOUR GLASSES,
YOU ALWAYS
SHAKE YOUR BANGS OUT OF THE WAY FIRST,
DON'T YOU?

MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

植芝理一
UESHIBA RIICHI

CHAPTER 88:
MYSTERIOUS "RUT"

IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
EVERY TIME I DO THE LEAST LITTLE THING,
HE TELLS ME HE WANTS A PICTURE.
IT NEVER STOPS.
PHOTOGRAPHY IS HASEGAWA-KUN'S HOBBY, AFTER ALL.
HASEGAWA-KUN IS YOUR BOYFRIEND, RIGHT?
THE ONE YOU JUST STARTED DATING?
AND
HE'S ALREADY DRIVING ME NUTS...
Photography Society
I ALWAYS END UP LETTING HIM.
SNIFF SNIFF
WHEN THAT HAPPENS,
SO,
DO YOU LET HIM TAKE A PICTURE?

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PREVIOUSLY KISSING IS OUT. MUCH LESS ANYTHING BEYOND THAT. STILL, AKIRA TSUBAKI AND MAKOTO USAMI ARE BOYFRIEND AND GIRLFRIEND. THE ONLY COURSE LIKE THING THEY DO IS A DAILY ROUTINE IN WHICH TSUBAKI TASTES USAMI'S LUNCH. BUT "LUNCH" IS HIS PRECIOUS LOVE! THAT CONFUSES THE TWO OF THEM. AKIRA'S SISTER YOUKO GAVE HIM COLOGNE AS HE WAS BEGGING FOR A DATE. YOUKO IS SUPPORTIVE OF THIS LOVE, BUT HER OWN PAST GIVES HER THE WORRY THAT COLOGNE LEADS TO A PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIP. USAMI POSED BY OUR YOUKO'S COMEDIAN SMOOTH THROUGH AKIRA'S DEBOL, AND WHEN HE RETURNED HOME, YOUKO TOOK THE COLOGNE BACK.

WHEN YOU'RE DOING THAT
YOU LOOK REALLY CUTE
BUT...
I CAN'T TAKE A PICTURE?
I...
I FEEL KINDA JEALOUS WATCHING YOU.
YOU SEEM SO PURE AND INNOCENT.
BUT,
RIGHT, URABE-SAN?
LOVE IS SCARY...
SHE WAS MORE OF A STOIC BEAUTY BEFORE...
DIFFERENT SOMEHOW...
SUWANO-SAN SEEMS
I JUST CAN'T TURN HIM DOWN...
WHEN HE CALLS ME CUTE,
どれん♡
SUWANO
どれん♡
SUWANO
I WOULDN'T REALLY CALL THEM "RUTS"...
WELL,
BUT, LIKE... WE GET USED TO EACH OTHER...
A RUT?
YOU AND YOUR BOYFRIEND HAVE THOSE, TOO?
YOU KNOW,
WHEN YOU'VE BEEN TOGETHER A LONG TIME,
YOU CAN GET INTO A RUT.

AND I OFFER SOME TO HIM...
OH.
WANT A DRINK?
LIKE WHEN I'M DRINKING A CAN OF JUICE,
THANKS!
SURE!
BUT RECENTLY...
OH.
WANT A DRINK?
HE WOULD HAVE BLUSHED.
NOT TOO LONG AGO,
YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND, OKA-SAN?
HUH?
WHAT?
WHAT?
WELL, I ...
...ACTUALLY...
I FEEL LIKE WE'VE GOTTEN USED TO EACH OTHER.
AT THOSE TIMES,
...HE DRINKS IT JUST LIKE THAT.

WHO ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH?!
IS HE IN OUR CLASS?
I WON'T TELL YOU FOR NOTHING!
HUH?
HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT ME TO PAY?
5,000 YEN.
THAT'S WAY TOO HIGH!

WHEW...
IT'S GETTING TO THE POINT
WHERE THIS UNIFORM'S REALLY HOT...
IT IS MAY ALREADY.

DASH
KA-CHUNK
¥120
BEEP
COOL
JINGLE
URABE!
GULP
GULP
PSHT
COFFEE

WANT A DRINK?
TSUBAKI-KUN,
COFFEE
REACH
THANKS!
OH,
AH...
GRAB

THANKS.
SURE...
TIME FOR OUR ROUTINE!
URABE.
WELL.

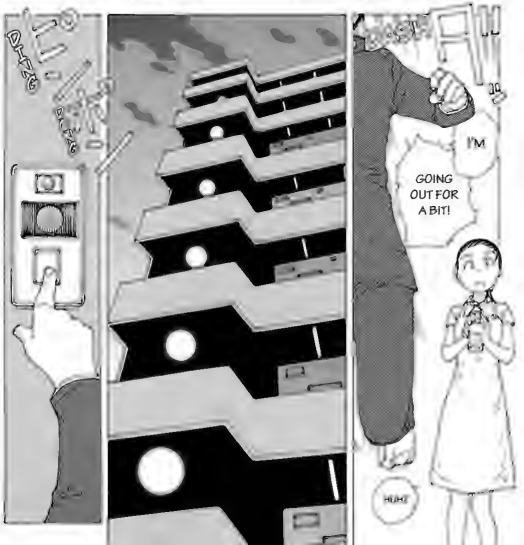
HERE.
TSUBAKI-KUN.
POK
WELL,
SEE YOU.
TSUBAKI-KUN.
AH...
OH,
YEAH.
LATER!
.....
?
!

I FELT SOME SORT OF ZAP IN MY CHEST...
WHAT WAS THAT? WHEN I TASTED URABE'S DROOL.
WELCOME BACK, AKIRA.
I'M HOME.

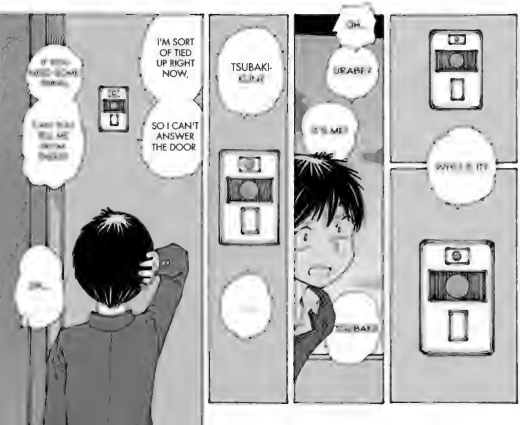
GULP
GULP
GULP
GULP
HE—
HEY!
HOLD IT!
JEEZ!
WHY ARE YOU DRINKING MY DRINK?!
GRAB
I WAS GOING TO FINISH IT!
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
WE'RE FAMILY.
EVEN WITH FAMILY,
I PREFER TO KEEP THESE THINGS ORDERLY!
THAT'S JUST HOW I AM!

HEY,
IT'S EMPTY.
JEEZ...
YOU JUST GULPED IT DOWN LIKE IT WAS NOTHING...
IF THIS HAD BELONGED TO A GIRL YOU LIKED,
YOU WOULD'VE BEEN MORE EXCITED TO DRINK IT...
GRRR
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
SERIOUSLY!
OH...
GRRR

YOU'RE CLUTCHING YOUR CHEST,
AND YOU WENT QUIET...
SOMETHING WRONG?
ARE I A


DUZZ
DUZZ
I'M
GOING OUT FOR A BIT!
HUH?

PIN PON
THAT'S NOT ANSWER-ING...
DUDE QUIT!
PIN PON PIN PON
PIN PON PIN PON


I'M SORT OF TIED UP RIGHT NOW,
SO I CAN'T ANSWER THE DOOR
I DON'T FEEL LIKE SEEING PEOPLE!
IT'S SOME WEIRD SCAM!
OH...
TSUBAKI-KUN?
OH.
URABE?
IT'S ME!
WHO'S IT?
...BA!

I'M NOT SURE HOW TO SAY THIS...
WELL...
IT'S JUST...

I'M SORRY
ABOUT TODAY.

TODAY
WHEN YOU LET ME HAVE
A DRINK OF YOUR COFFEE...
WELL...
YOU KNOW
WE'VE BEEN GOING OUT
FOR A PRETTY LONG TIME, RIGHT?
——
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

BUT TODAY, I JUST DRANK IT LIKE IT WAS TOTALLY NORMAL
I PROBABLY WOULD'VE BEEN MORE EXCITED TO DRINK IT,
A LONG TIME AGO,
COPPER
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE
JUST TO TELL ME THAT?
YEAH.
ALL OF A SUDDEN,
I FELT REALLY BAD...
AT SOME POINT,
I SORT OF GOT USED TO HAVING YOU BESIDE ME.
WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT THAT,

BANG

YOU DIDN'T NEED
TO APOLOGIZE
FOR SOMETHING THAT TRIVIAL...
WHOA...
I WAS
DRIP
DRIP
JUST IN THE BATH.
IT'S TRUE.
.....

BLUSH FOR ME.
YOU WON'T
I CAN SEE
THAT IF I DON'T
LOOK LIKE THIS,
SLAM

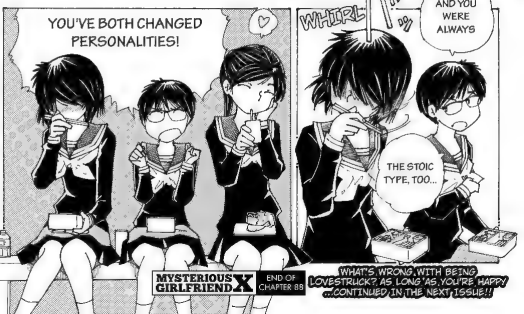
I HAVE A HABIT OF SHAKING MY HEAD AROUND.
AND WHEN I MISS,
WHEN I USE EYE DROPS,
I ALWAYS MISS ON THE FIRST TRY.
AND WHEN HE SAID...

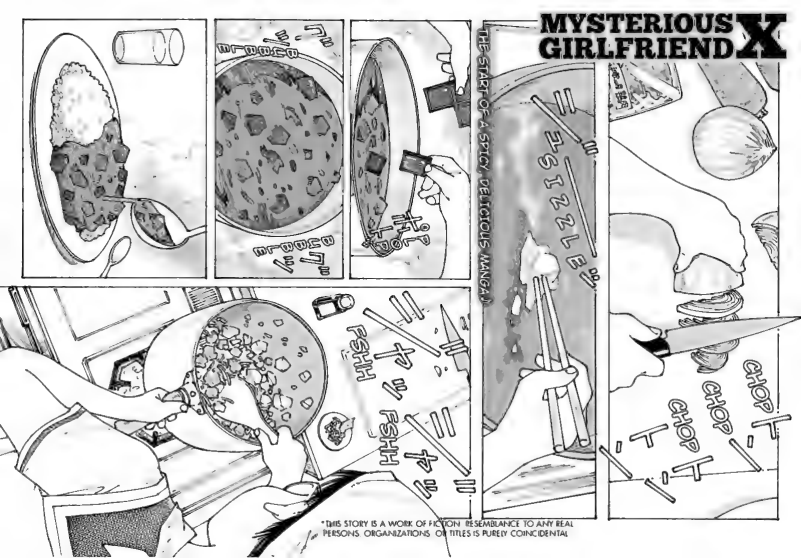
I LET HIM TAKE MY PICTURE AGAIN.
...THAT I LOOK CUTE DOING THAT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, URABE-SAN?
ME?
I...
DON'T REALLY...
BUT,
IS IT NORMAL TO GET LIKE THIS JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE CALLS YOU CUTE?

I THINK
TSUBAKI-KUN
LOOKS CUTER
WHEN HE
BLUSHES...

UKYOU-SAN...
HUH?

YOU HAVE...
A REALLY
LOVESTRUCK LOOK ON YOUR FACE...
HUH?


YOU'VE BOTH CHANGED PERSONALITIES!
WHIRL!
AND YOU WERE ALWAYS
THE STOIC TYPE, TOO...
MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X
END OF CHAPTER 88
WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING LOVESTRUCK? AS LONG AS YOU'RE HAPPY...
CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE!!


MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X
THE STAGE OF A SPICY, DELICIOUS MANGA
CHOP
CHOP
CHOP
SIZZLE
PSHH
PSHH
PSHH
*THIS STORY IS A WORK OF FICTION. RESEMBLANCE TO ANY REAL PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR TITLES IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL

MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X
植芝理一
UESHIBA RIICHI
YOUR GROUP MADE CURRY, OKA-SAN?
NO FAIR!
ISN'T THAT TOO EASY?
SIMPLE IS DELICIOUS,
YOU KNOW!
CHAPTER 89: MYSTERIOUS CURRIED RICE
PERK UP THE CLASS WITH SOME CURRY!!
PREVIOUSLY
MISAKO IS DUE MUCH ESS-ANYTHING BEFORE THAT (?!!). AKIRA FUSAKI AND MAKOTO URAKE ARE BOYFRIEND AND GIRLFRIEND. THE ONLY COURSE ONE THING THEY DO IS A DAILY ROUTINE IN WHICH FUSAKI NOTES URAKE'S DROOL, BUT "DROOL" IS THE PREQUEL'S BOND THAT CONNECTS THE TWO OF THEM. URAKE, WITH LESS JUDO HOW TO LOVE, SUMMONS UP HER NEW BOYFRIEND. AT FIRST WATCHING, FUSAKI DRINK JAPANESE CAN-OF COFFEE AS IF IT WERE ECSTASY HORMAL. SHE SEARCHED TO WORRY THAT EVEN WERE IN A RUT. WHEN HE CAME OVER TO APOLOGIZE, URAKE GREETED HIM FRESH OUT OF THE BATH, AND HIS BLUSHING DISHEARTED. URAKE THAN THEY ARE STILL NOT TO KISS.

SO WE GET TO EAT BEFORE EVERYONE ELSE.
CHOP
NOT ONLY IS IT TASTY,
BUT IT'S ALSO EASY TO MAKE,
HOT!
POP
SNAP

OH,
IT'S GOOD ♪
SURE.
CAN I TRY A TASTE?

BUT THE TASTE OF CURRY IS STILL IN MY MOUTH,
WE'RE MAKING SPINACH WITH SESAME DRESSING...
AUGH!
POK
DARN IT!
NOTHING CAN BEAT CURRY!
SO THE SPINACH DOESN'T TASTE GOOD!

SNIFF
SNIFF
WHA...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
COOKING CLASS TODAY, IN THE GIRLS'
SNIFF
SNIFF
YOU MADE CURRY, RIGHT?
HUH?
YOU CAN SMELL IT?
HEY,
IS THERE ANY LEFT OF THE CURRY
YOUR GROUP MADE?
WE MADE A LOT,
SO IT'S ALL GONE.
BUT WE GAVE SOME TO THE OTHER GROUPS.
I WANTED TO EAT THE CURRY
DARN!
ガクッ
THAT URABE MADE...

THEN,
WHY DON'T I MAKE SOME FOR YOU?
R—
REALLY?!
SURE.
CURRY'S NO BIG DEAL.
COME TO MY PLACE.
ON SUNDAY,
IN TWO DAYS,
I'LL MAKE YOU
CURRY FOR LUNCH.
YEAH!!
ALL RIGHT!!
I'M A LITTLE BIT PARTICULAR ABOUT MY CURRY.

EH...
REALLY?
PEOPLE WHO NEVER MAKE IT
DON'T GET TO COM-PLAIN!!
I CRITICIZE MY SISTER'S A LOT.
THE MEAT ISN'T COOKED RIGHT...
THE SPICI-NESS...
THE POTATOES ARE STILL HARD...
うまい…

ARE YOU GOING OUT?
AKIRA.
OH,

I'M ALWAYS SUPER SWEET ON YOU!
I WOULD NEVER CRITICIZE YOUR CURRY!
OH...
I'M JUST KID-DING!
.....

OH, I'LL JUST HAVE SOME MILK.
WHAT ABOUT BREAK-FAST?
OKAY, I'M GOING.
HAVE A GOOD TIME.
I'LL BE BACK BY THIS EVENING.
GULP GULP
MILK
'CAUSE THE CURRY I'M HAVING FOR LUNCH.
MILK IS ENOUGH FOR ME THIS MORNING!

...IS THE FIRST THING URABE'S EVER COOKED FOR ME!
I DID HAVE SOME MISO SOUP, THOUGH.
THANKS!
COME IN.
WELCOME.
ピンポーン
WOW.
SHE'S IN AN APRON♪

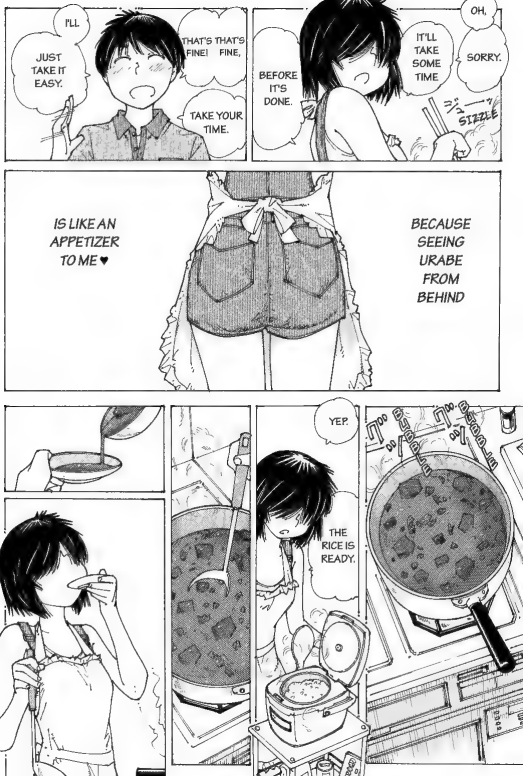
AND WAIT FOR A BIT.
SIT AT THE TABLE
FSSHHH
OKAY!
SNICK
SNICK
SNICK
SNICK

SIZZLE
FLOP
HUH?
OH, OKAY.
OKAY, I'M STARTING NOW.
SPIN
SPIN
SPIN
TOSS
GRAB
SHINK

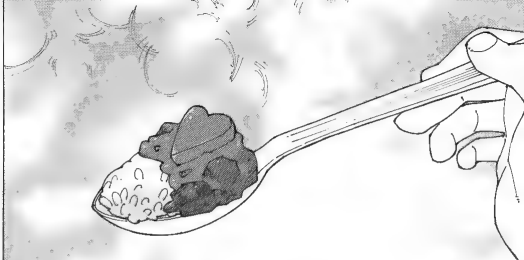
ジャキジャキ
SNIP
SNIP
ジャキジャキ
SNIP
SNIP
ドドドド
DRRRR

ゴン ゴン
THUNK THUNK
ゴン ゴン
THUNK THUNK
ジュウ
SIZZLE...
ウウウ...
SIZZLE...
ジャキジャキ
SNIP SNIP SNIP SNIP
GRAB
ポー
TOMO
THUNK THUNK
ゴン ゴン
THUNK

I GET IT...
SINCE URABE'S SO GOOD WITH SCISSORS,
SHE USES THEM INSTEAD OF A KNIFE...
BUT STILL...
IS KIND OF A TURN-ON...
WATCHING A GIRL'S BACK WHILE SHE COOKS
ヤッ
ヤッ
ヤッ


I'LL JUST TAKE IT EASY.
THAT'S FINE! THAT'S FINE, TAKE YOUR TIME.
OH, SORRY.
IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE IT'S DONE.
SIZZLE
BECAUSE SEEING URABE FROM BEHIND IS LIKE AN APPETIZER TO ME♥
YEP. THE RICE IS READY.
BUBBLE BUBBLE BUBBLE

MM.
WELL THEN,
I'M DIGGING IN!
HELP YOURSELF.



I ADDED A LITTLE SPECIAL TOUCH.

WHEN I CUT THE VEGETABLES,

THAT'S WHEN!

SNIP SNIP SNIP SNIP

OH...

THIS CARROT IS...

UM,

UH...

URABE,

THE CARROT'S SHAPED LIKE A HEART...

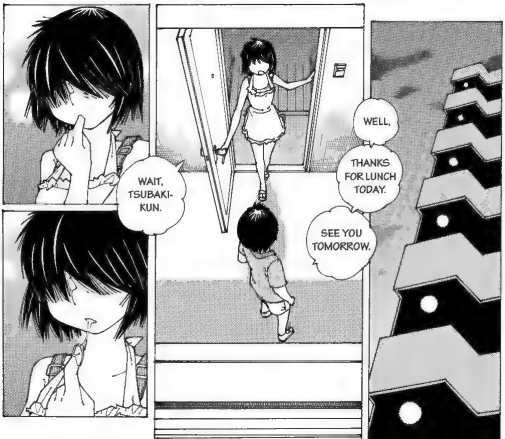
IS IT GOOD?
POK
IT'S GREAT!
I WOULDN'T THINK IT'S GOOD!
THERE'S NO WAY
OH,
URABE,
ARE YOU WASHING THE DISHES?
YEAH.
I'LL HELP YOU.
OKAY.
THEN WOULD YOU
WIPE THE DISHES DRY,
AND SET THEM OVER THERE?
GOT IT.

THE MOOD IS PRETTY GOOD...
SEEMS LIKE...
GLANCE
RUB
RUB
CLINK
MAYBE...
THIS IS A GOOD TIME?
GULP
I'LL GO FOR IT!

URABE.
グイッ
TUG

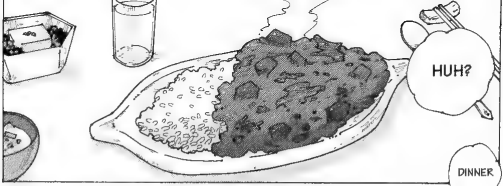
トッ
TAP
DON'T.
IF WE DO THAT NOW,
OUR FIRST KISS
WILL TASTE LIKE CURRY!

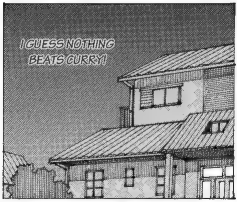
AHAHA...
WOULDN'T WANT THAT
YOU'RE RIGHT.
Y—
OH...
LIFT


WAIT, TSUBAKI-KUN.
WELL,
THANKS FOR LUNCH TODAY.
SEE YOU TOMORROW.

OUR ROUTINE FOR TODAY...
TSUBAKI-KUN.

WE JUST ATE CURRY
KA-CHAK
YEAH!
AH...
TASTED REALLY SWEET
BUT TODAY'S ROUTINE
BANNER: FIRST KISS MENTAL PRESS CONFERENCE
I'M HOME
BUT THE KISS AFTERWARD WAS SWEET♥
THE CURRY WE ATE WAS SPICY,
YEAH~
FIRST KISS MENTAL PRESS CONFERENCE
MAYBE WE REALLY SHOULD BE ASHAMED THEN





EVEN IN A DOUBLE HEADER, CURRY HAS NO BLIND SPOTS!
CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE...

MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

パキ
SNAP

パキ
SNAP

MAYBE I'LL BE A LITTLE BOLD

パキーン

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MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

SCRAPE

URABE-SAN,

HOW'S THE FIT?!

OKA SAN, EXCELLENT!

YAAAH!!

CHAPTER 90: MYSTERIOUS SHOPPING

植芝理一
UESHIBA RIICHI

PREVIOUSLY

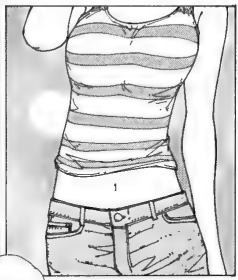
KISSING IS CUTE, MUCH LESS ANYTHING BEYOND THAT, STILL, AOKA TSUBASA AND MIKOTO URABE ARE BOYFRIEND AND GIRLFRIEND. THE ONLY OBSTRUCTIVE THING THEY DO IS A DAILY ROUTINE IN WHICH TSUBASA TAKES URABE'S BROOCH, BUT "BROOCH" IS THE PRECIOUS BOND THAT CONNECTS THE TWO OF THEM. URABE MADE HER OWN SPECIAL CURRY FOR TSUBASA, ON TOP OF THAT, THEY WERE ALONE IN HER HOUSE. FOLLOWING WHEN THE MOOD SEEMED RIGHT, TSUBASA TRIED TO KISS URABE, BUT SHE STOPPED HIM, SAYING SHE DIDN'T WANT TO REMEMBER HER FIRST KISS AS BEING CURRY-FLAVORED. TSUBASA WAS HAPPY, BUT IF HE'D TRIED ONE MORE TIME, MAYBE HE'D'VE BEEN IN

IT'S PERFECT!
OOH!
IT LOOKS GOOD!
IT LOOKS GOOD!
SUMMER SWIMWEAR
FORGET THAT!
CLOSE IT!
CLOSE IT!
WITH THAT, YOU'LL TOTALLY
KNOCK TSUBAKI-KUN'S SOCKS OFF THIS SUMMER!
HMM...
ARE YOU GOING TO GET THAT ONE?

YEAH.
I AM.
HANG ON A SEC.
SHIFF
SHIFT
YOU'RE GETTING THAT ONE, THEN?
OH!
URABE-SAN!
POKE
HUH?
YOU SHOULD
WEAR THAT SWIMSUIT UNDER YOUR CLOTHES FOR THE REST OF THE DAY.

WEARING A SWIMSUIT WHILE YOU GO SHOPPING
IS GREAT, YOU KNOW?
IT FEELS LIKE SUMMER.
I'M STILL WEARING
THE SWIMSUIT I JUST BOUGHT.
ACTUALLY, I'M DOING THE SAME.
I ALREADY PAID FOR IT.
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT,
I HAVEN'T PAID FOR IT...
BUT
IT'S FINE. IT'S FINE.
I JUST MADE A LITTLE MONEY FROM MY PART-TIME JOB.
I CAN'T MAKE YOU DO THAT.
BUT...

.....
KINDA GIVES ME THE SHIVERS...
ぞくっ
A SWIMSUIT THAT I BOUGHT FOR YOU
EXTREME
THE THOUGHT THAT YOU'RE WEARING
BESIDES,
ぞくっ♡
SHIVER



WITH ALL THE GIRLS GOING AROUND
IN SUCH THIN CLOTHES...
...I CAN'T DENY THAT.

SUMMER IS AWESOME,

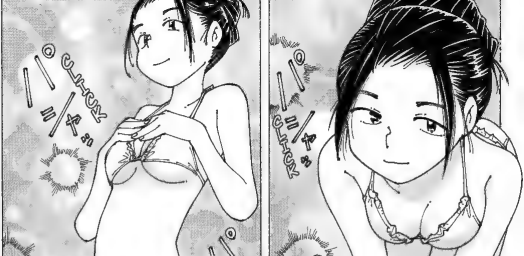
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YEAH,
THE BEST WAY TO SHOP IN SUMMER
YOU'VE GOT A GIRLFRIEND
IS WITH OTHER GUYS!
H&M
広島

...GOOD POINT!
IF I WERE WITH URABE,
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO LOOK AT THEM!
SIGH...
IF I WERE
WITH OKA,
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO
STARE AT ALL THESE GIRLS IN THIN CLOTHES AROUND TOWN.
BECAUSE
AHAHA♡
NO WAY! REALLY?♡
NO, SERIOUSLY!
I MEAN IT!

WHAT'S WITH THE CROWD
HEY,
HM?

WE SURE BOUGHT A LOT OF STUFF.
WHEW...
I BOUGHT A T-SHIRT AND A SKIRT.
I BOUGHT SANDALS AND A HAT, TOO!
WITH THAT CROWD?
WHAT'S UP
MIZUHO BANK
OKAY.
I'M HUNGRY.
WHY DON'T WE STOP SOMEWHERE FOR A BREAK?

Mana
パーン
パーン
沖田茉奈、最新DVD
WHOA...
SIGN: MANA OKITA'S NEW DVD
MANA OKITA IS HERE FOR SOME KIND OF PROMOTION!
HUH?
HUH?
WHO'S THAT?
WHO'S REALLY POPULAR RIGHT NOW.
SHE'S A GRAVURE IDOL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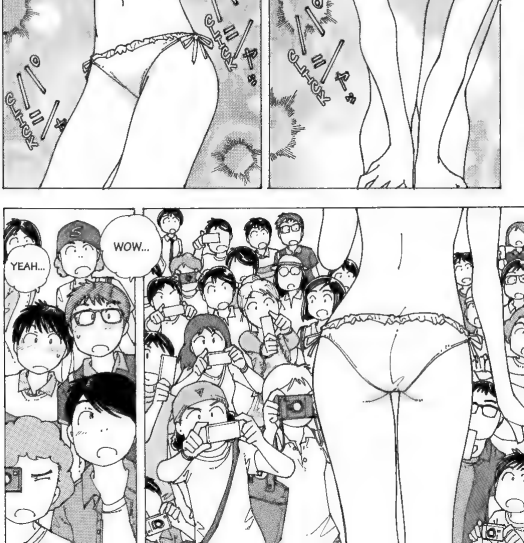
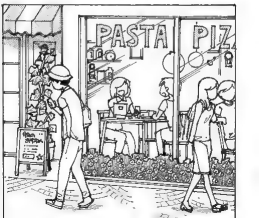

YEAH...
WOW...

WE'D NEVER GET AWAY WITH STANDING HERE WATCHING THIS.
IF WE WERE WITH OUR GIRL-FRIENDS,
GOOD POINT...!
A GOOD THING IT'S JUST US GUYS TODAY.
IT REALLY IS
NO PUSHING, PLEASE!
NO PUSHING, PLEASE!
LET'S GET CLOSER!
YAH...
AH,
I'M SORRY...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
OW...
OWW...
PUSH-ING!

URABE!
N.P
TSUBAKI-KUN.
OH,
UENO-KUN.
OKA!

ちゅる
SLURRP...


PASTA
PIZ

WERE YOU SHOPPING?
STILL, I WASN'T EXPECTING
TO SEE YOU TWO IN THIS TOWN.
WHAT DID YOU BUY?
.....
OF—
OF COURSE!
TSUBAKI AND I
WILL COVER YOU TWO.
ARE YOU SURE
YOU DON'T MIND PAYING FOR US?
SWIM-SUITS!
WE PICKED THEM OUT
FOR EACH OTHER.
IT'S OKAY, REALLY.
HMM...
SINCE THERE'S FOUR OF US,
WE COULD DO KARAOKE, OR AN ARCADE,
OR BOWLING...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NEXT?
BY THE WAY,
SWIM-SUITS...!

IT'S NOT OFTEN
THE FOUR OF US MEET UP AS CLASSMATES.
IT'S FINE, REALLY.
HUH?
YOU AND OKA ARE GOING OUT.
YOU CAN GO ON A DATE
WITHOUT URABE AND ME.
AH...
SO URABE
ALSO KNOWS THAT WE'RE...
I KNOW YOU'RE GOING OUT.
I TOLD HER.
YOU'RE A LOT MORE CHEERFUL THAN YOU LOOK.
REALLY?
YOU KNOW, URABE,
URABE, YOU'RE GOOD!
MAN, THAT WAS FUN.
URABE, SHE... RIGHT!! RIGHT!!
Zom SHOTING !!
LET'S ALL
HAVE A BLAST TOGETHER!
IN THAT CASE,
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

HAVE FUN ON DOUBLE DATES!
THAT WAY, WE CAN ALL
HEY
YOU SHOULD
GO OUT WITH URABE
MINE
WE'VE BEEN GOING OUT FOR AGES ALREADY!
YOU BOUGHT A SWIMSUIT TODAY?
URABE,
THAT'S RIGHT
SEE YA
LATER!
URABE-SAN
BYE!

AND GO WITH ME
THE SWIMSUIT YOU GOT TODAY
WOULD YOU WEAR
IF YOU WANT
LISTEN
TO THE BEACH SOMETIME?
POK
SHOOM
SCHLP
POP

ミシッ
CRACKLE

WHA—
WHAT?
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!
WHAT?
TO BE INVITED WHEN HIS MIND IS IN THAT STATE...
I'M NOT REALLY HAPPY

DO YOU
WANT TO KNOW...
YES?
TSUBAKI-KUN

OF COURSE I DO...
W— WELL,
HUH...?
I BOUGHT
WHAT KIND OF SWIM-SUIT
TODAY?
カラカラカラ...
SPIN SPIN SPIN
WHISH

ジャキジャキジャキジャキ…
SNIP SNIP
SNIP SNIP

ばらり…
FLUTTER…

ぽんっ

ニヤッ
CRACKLE
GOOD.
あせ PANIC
あせ PANIC
アセ SEE

あせ、PANIC
Miku♥
あせ、PANIC
あせ、PANIC
あせ、PANIC
Miku♥
あせ、PANIC
TSUBAKI KUN,
I DON'T MIND
GOING TO
THE BEACH WITH YOU
BUT IN EXCHANGE
あせ、PANIC

NO SWIMSUIT CAN BEAT THE LOOK OF HER NATURAL FACE! CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE! AND...

MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

SOMETHING'S ABOUT TO BEGIN. THIS SPECIAL SCENERY MADE HIS EXPECTATION

GULP

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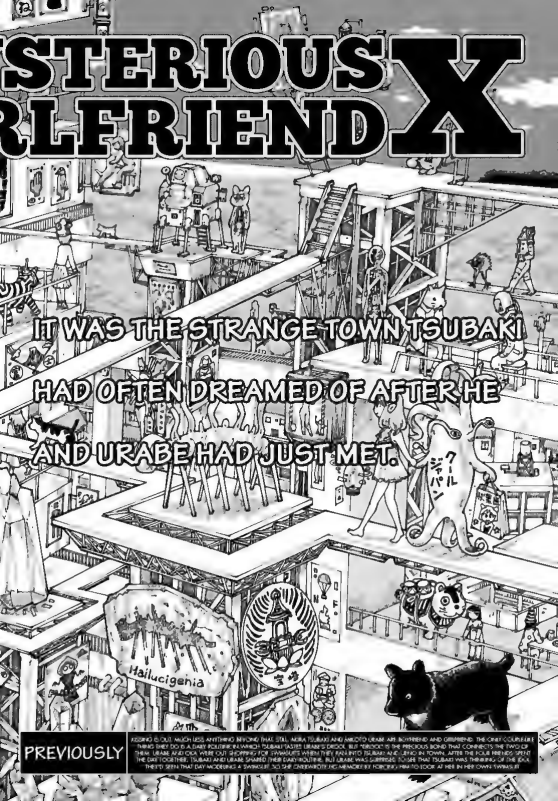
STERIOUS RLFRIEND X



PREVIOUSLY

KISSING IS DULL. MUCH LESS ANYTHING BEYOND THAT. STILL, MORA TSUBAKI AND MIKOTO URABE ARE BOYFRIEND AND GIRLFRIEND. THE ONLY COURTSHIP THING THEY DO IS A DATE ROUTINE IN WHICH TSUBAKI TASTES URABE'S BOOGIE, BUT "BOOGIE" IS THE PRECIOUS BOND THAT CONNECTS THE TWO OF THEM. TSUBAKI AND URABE VISIT OUT-OF-THE-WAY SPOTS TO SAMPLE THEIR FAVORITE TSUBAKI AND URABE IN TOWN, AFTER THE FOUR FRIENDS SPLIT THE DAY TOGETHER, TSUBAKI AND URABE SHARED THEIR DAILY ROUTINE, BUT URABE WAS SURPRISED TO SEE THAT TSUBAKI WAS THINKING OF THE IDEA THEY'D SEEN THAT DAY. WONDERING IF SOMETHING'S UP, SHE OVERHEARD HIS CONVERSATION WITH HIS MOTHER BEHIND THE DOOR AT HER IN HER OWN TWINKLE!

MY
GI
IT'S ALSO A PRECIOUS VISION THAT BECAME THE KEY TO ADVANCING THEIR RELATIONSHIP.
TSUBAKI-KUN.
THINK
CHAPTER 91: MYSTERIOUS SUNSET (PART 1)
植芝理一
UESHIBA RIICHI

...KISS ME.
SNAP

THE DREAM ABOUT THAT NIGHT...
...I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT IN A LONG TIME

HM?
I GUESS SIS ISN'T BACK HOME YET.
YEAH, I'D LIKE TO...

WITH HER OLD FRIENDS FROM HIGH SCHOOL...
SHE MUST REALLY BE LIVING IT UP
カチャン
KLANK
CHE—
—ERS!!
REALLY
YOUKO,
IT'S BEEN AGES, BUT YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT!
YEAH, REALLY!
YOU LOOK JUST LIKE YOU DID IN SCHOOL!
NO WAY!

SO...
HAVE YOU FOUND A BOYFRIEND?!
I HAVEN'T!
ME, NEITHER!!
GLUNK
GLUNK
GLUNK
GLUNK
WHAT?
AREN'T YOU AND MIZUKI AROUND LOTS OF GUYS ALL THE TIME,
WHY NOT?
AT WORK?
I JUST DO HOUSE-WORK...
ACK,
NO CHANCE!
THEY'RE ALL WEIRDOS!
IT'S EASIER BEING SINGLE.
OH,
I HEARD
THAT'S RIGHT!
ARIMA-KUN IS GETTING MARRIED!
AH...!
BUT
OH,
A LOT OF PEOPLE FROM OUR CLASS
ARE MARRIED NOW.

YOUKO,
HUH?
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?
I ALREADY KNEW THAT ARIMA-KUN IS GETTING MARRIED.
BESIDES,
OH, IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME.
THAT'S ANCIENT HISTORY!
HE TOLD ME THEN.
IN THE TOWN NEAR WHERE I LIVE.
I BUMPED INTO ARIMA-KUN
THIS PAST FEBRUARY.
WHAT THE HECK DOES THAT MEAN?
AND I GOT OVER IT!
I TOOK A BATH WITH A REALLY CUTE HIGH SCHOOL GIRL.
AFTER THAT,
I WAS A LITTLE SURPRISED, BUT...
WELL... OF COURSE,
WAS IT A SHOCK?

WERE A LOT OF FUN.
BUT, THOSE DAYS

AS BEAUTIFUL AS THE ONES I SAW BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL.
I THINK, SINCE I BECAME AN ADULT, I HAVEN'T SEEN A SUNSET

WITH ARIMA-KUN ALL THE TIME, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU WENT HOME
YEAH,

WE'VE GOTTA SHAKE OFF THOSE BITTERSWEET LOVES OF THE PAST.
IS WHAT WE DO FROM NOW ON!
THUNK
BUT WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT-
GULP GULP
BROKE UP WITH HER BOYFRIEND FROM HIGH SCHOOL RIGHT AFTER GRADUATION.
HE FOUND ANOTHER GIRL.
EN-CHAN ALSO
HEY!
THREE MORE MUGS
YEP!
REALISTIC, GROWN-UP LOVE!
OF DRAFT, PLEASE!
AND DO OUR BEST
TO FIND NEW LOVE!
SOMEPLACE I GO EVERY YEAR...
AH, YEAH.
SOME-THING TO DO?
I SHOULDN'T DRINK TOO MUCH...
I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO DO TOMORROW...
LET'S DRINK THE NIGHT AWAY!
THREE DRAFTS!
YOUKO!
HERE!
HUH?

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?!
WELL THEN,
WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER
IN YEARS, YOU KNOW!
EARLY IN THE MORNING?
AND DOES THIS HAPPEN
WELL, NO...
NOT REALLY EARLY...
THAT IS SURE TO COME OUR WAY!
OF THE BEAUTIFUL LOVE
IN CELE-BRA-TION
CHEERS!!

ブルル…
VRRR…
キキ
SCREECH
ドタドタドタ
TMP
TMP
TMP
I'M HOME!
WHEW!
I HAVEN'T HAD THAT MUCH TO DRINK IN AGES.
ガチャ
CLICK

OH!
PLEASE!
SOME WATER?
YOU WANT
AND
UP...
IF YOU'RE GONNA SLEEP, SLEEP IN YOUR FUTON.
OR,
MAYBE NOT...
OH,
COME ON...
SHE FELL ASLEEP IN THE ENTRYWAY...

ガラガラ
HUH?
I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS THIS LIGHT.
OR MAYBE
I'VE JUST GOTTEN BIGGER
AND GAINED MORE STRENGTH...
THAT SHOULD DO IT.
I'LL LEAVE
THE WATER HERE.

...HUH?
SEEING MY SISTER'S FACE WHEN SHE'S ASLEEP...

WHAT...?
TEARS...!
HUH?
WHY?

IT'S USUALLY EVENING WHEN WE GO HOME,
BUT WHEN CLASSES END DURING THE MORNING,
THE WALK HOME IS WAY TOO HOT...
MAN,
THE SUN IS BRUTAL...

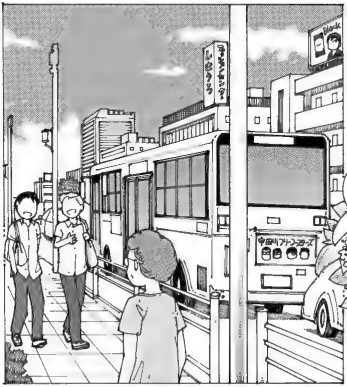
OH.
OKAY.
SCHLP...
HERE.
TSUBAKI-KUN.
OUR ROUTINE.
WHEN I SAW SIS ASLEEP LAST NIGHT,
WHY DID I START CRYING...?
...BUT STILL,

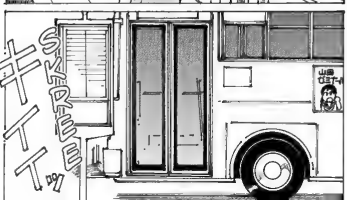
ポ
POP
HMM...
TSUBAKI-KUN.
TSUBAKI-KUN.
ポーン
POP
ち
SCHLP
POK

URABE...
...I SAW IT.
YOU'RE CRYING...

DO YOU HAVE PLANS THIS AFTER-NOON?
HUH?
TSUBAKI-KUN,
WHAT?
I PROMISED I'D HANG OUT WITH UENO AND NAKAJIMA...
UENO
NAKAJIMA
HUH?
IF I CAN GO WITH YOU,
OH, NO...
THAT TAKES PRIORITY...
NEVER MIND, IT'S NOTHING.
WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?
OH...
I'LL HAVE TO GO BY MYSELF.
THEN,
TSUBAKI-KUN.
SEE YOU TOMORROW,
OKAY...

FLOWER SHOP 花屋
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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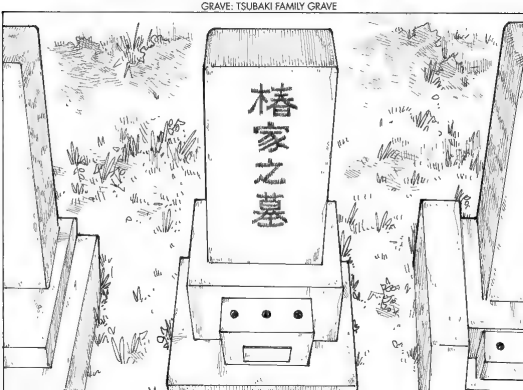
GRAVE: TSUBAKI FAMILY GRAVE



EW...
I DRANK TOO MUCH LAST NIGHT...
HUH?

AHH...
WHAT IMAGE DID URABE SEE?
MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X
END OF CHAPTER 91
NEXT TIME, THE FINAL CHAPTER!!

MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

AFTER MORE THAN 10 YEARS OF PUBLICATION, THE "UNIDENTIFIABLE ROMANCE" COMIC REACHES ITS FINALE...

URABE-SAN...

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

OLDER SISTER AND GIRLFRIEND. TWO PEOPLE WHO MEAN THE WORLD TO AKIRA REVEAL WHAT'S IN THEIR HEARTS...

CHAPTER 91: MYSTERIOUS SUNSET (PART 2)

UESHIBA RIICHI 植芝理一

PREVIOUSLY KISSING IT OUT, MUCH LESS ANYTHING BEYOND THAT. STILL, AKIRA TSUBAKI AND MIKOTO URABE ARE BOYFRIEND AND GIRLFRIEND. THE ONLY COURSE ARE THING THEY DO IS A DAILY ROUTINE IN WHICH TSUBAKI TASTES URABE'S BROOCH, BUT "BROOCH" IS THE RECOCIUS BEING THAT CONNECTS THE TWO OF THEM. AFTER SEEING HIS SISTER YOUKO ASLEEP. FOR SOME REASON, TEARS CAME TO AKIRA'S EYES. THEN, AFTER COMPLETING THEIR DAILY ROUTINE, URABE SAW A VISION UNLIKE THE ONES SHE'D SEEN BEFORE. THAT VISION LED HER TO VISIT THE TSUBAKI FAMILY CRAVE, WHERE THE RAIN INTO YOUKO. WHAT WAS THE VISION URABE SAW?

HE—
HELLO!
GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
TSUBAKI-KUN'S SISTER...
OH...
THEN,
YOU KNEW
THAT TODAY IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF HER DEATH, TOO?
URABE-SAN,
YOU KNEW IT WAS HERE?
AH,
YES.
TSUBAKI-KUN BROUGHT ME HERE ONCE.
ドキドキ
THIS IS...
OUR MOTHER'S GRAVE...

TSUBAKI-KUN TOLD ME...
UH...
OH!
YES!
WHA...
HE COULDN'T HAVE TOLD YOU.
BROUGHT YOU HERE TODAY?
URABE-SAN,
WHAT REALLY
UH...
WELL...
YOU PROBABLY WON'T BELIEVE
ME, BUT...
AKIRA DOESN'T
KNOW THE DATE OF OUR MOTHER'S DEATH.

WHEN I'M WITH TSUBAKI-KUN,
I CAN SEE ALL SORTS OF THINGS.
TODAY,
ON OUR WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL,
I SAW SOMETHING.
IT LOOKED LIKE A HOSPITAL ROOM.
THERE WAS A WOMAN ON THE BED,
AND BESIDE HER STOOD A LITTLE BOY.
HE WAS CRYING.
I'M CERTAIN
THAT BOY
WAS TSUBAKI-KUN WHEN HE WAS LITTLE.

TSUBAKI-KUN'S MOM PASSED AWAY.
BUT I KNEW
THAT WAS THE MOMENT WHEN
THE WOMAN
LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS ASLEEP.
YOU KNOW, YOU...
UM...
.....
HM?
WHAT IS IT?
THAT'S WHY
I CAME HERE TODAY.
椿家之墓
SO...
THAT TODAY WAS THE ANNIVERSARY OF HER DEATH.
I ACTUALLY HAD NO IDEA
THAT WAS JUST A COINCI-DENCE...

YOUR LATE MOTHER.
LOOK JUST LIKE
NO CAT NO LIFE
LOOK.
HUH?
原口家之墓
山崎家之墓
OH!

I LOOK MORE AND MORE LIKE HER EVERY YEAR...
IT DOES.
LOOKS JUST LIKE ME, RIGHT?
OUR MOTHER.
THIS IS
SO WE KEPT ONE
AND GOT RID OF THE REST.
RIGHT AFTER MOM DIED,
THIS IS
THE ONLY PHOTO
WE HAVE OF HER
IN OUR ENTIRE FAMILY.
WELL,
OUR DAD PROBABLY KEPT A FEW OTHERS IN SECRET, BUT...
AKIRA
WOULD CRY EVERY TIME
HE SAW PICTURES OF HER.
WHAT?

SO AKIRA
DOESN'T KNOW WHAT OUR MOM LOOKED LIKE.
WE HAVEN'T SHOWN HIM HER PICTURES
EVER SINCE THEN,
SO WHEN YOU SAY
THAT WHEN YOU'RE WITH HIM,
YOU CAN SEE ALL SORTS OF THINGS...
I BELIEVE YOU.
I'VE ALWAYS
EVERY YEAR,
COME HERE ALONE,
WITHOUT TELLING HIM...
WE VISIT HER GRAVE DURING THE OBON AND OHIGAN HOLIDAYS,
BUT I'M SURE
HE DOESN'T REMEMBER THE DATE OF HER DEATH.
AFTER ALL,
HERE YOU ARE...

I'M SURE YOU AND AKIRA
MUST HAVE
SOME KIND OF SPECIAL BOND.
A BOND...
YOU'RE REALLY HERE
EVEN IF IT'S A FLUKE.
AT OUR MOM'S GRAVE,
ON THE DATE
OF HER DEATH.
椿家之墓
EVEN AFTER HIGH SCHOOL,
I THOUGHT THAT
THERE WAS A BOY I THOUGHT I HAD SUCH A BOND WITH.
WHEN I WAS
ABOUT YOUR AGE...
WE WOULD ALWAYS BE TOGETHER,
FOREVER AND EVER...

I WAS WRONG...
BUT,
JUST TALKING ABOUT THE PAST...
OH! I'M SORRY.
I'M SURE MOM IS HAPPY TO MEET AKIRA'S GIRLFRIEND.
WOULD YOU GIVE HER THE FLOWERS?
椿家之墓
原口家之墓

UM...
SISTER...
THIS IS
WHAT I'VE BEEN THINKING.
I...

I'M HOME.
WELCOME HOME.
MEOW.
DINNER IS ALMOST READY.
I'M HOME.
HM.

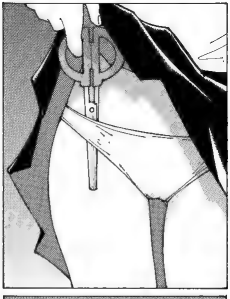
HEY!
OH!
WAIT A SECOND
OH.
OKAY.
HUH?
WHAT'S THIS?
IS A PICTURE OF OUR MOM.
INSIDE
THAT ENVELOPE
NO CAT
NO LIFE

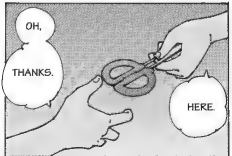
WELL, THAT OPPORTUNITY
HAPPENED TODAY.
NO CAT NO LIFE
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT WHEN
YOU GREW UP AND AN OPPORTUNITY CAME,
I'D GIVE IT TO YOU.
WHAT?

TODAY WAS THE DAY TO GIVE IT TO YOU.
SO,
I DECIDED

MOMS...!

TSUBAKI-KUN.
HERE.
OUR ROUTINE.




OH,
THANKS.
HERE.

CAN I BORROW YOUR SCISSORS?
WAIT...
AH,
URABE...
BEFORE WE DO THAT,
MY SCISSORS ...?

I COULD SEE YOUR PANTIES OR ANYTHING!
AH!
I DIDN'T
ASK TO BORROW THESE JUST SO
WAIT!!
WHAT'S IN
THAT ENVELOPE?

WOULD YOU WANT TO CUT UP SOMETHING THAT IMPORTANT?!
WHAT?!
WHY.
A PICTURE OF MY MOM.
MY SISTER
GAVE IT TO ME YESTERDAY.
FOR SOME REASON
TEARS CAME TO MY EYES...
WHEN I SAW MY SISTER SLEEPING,
BECAUSE,
TWO NIGHTS AGO,
I DON'T
REMEMBER WHAT MY MOM LOOKED LIKE,
BUT I STILL KNOW.

I WONDERED WHY AT THE TIME,
BUT
I'M PRETTY SURE
MY MOM LOOKED
LIKE MY SISTER DOES NOW.
IN MY SISTER'S FACE WHILE SHE SLEPT.
BECAUSE I SAW A LITTLE OF MY MOM
SO I THINK THAT HAPPENED
I CAN'T REMEMBER HER FACE.
BUT I'M SURE
THE MEMORY IS STILL
SOMEWHERE DEEP INSIDE ME.
I DON'T
ANY NEED
WHEN I THINK ABOUT THAT,
TO LOOK AT A PICTURE AND FIND OUT WHAT SHE LOOKED LIKE.

TSUBAKI-KUN...
IF I JUST
I THOUGHT IT'D BE EASIER TO MOVE FORWARD
CUT THE PICTURE TO PIECES...
YOU CAN'T DO THAT.
STILL
IF YOU'RE JUST GOING TO CUT IT UP,
パリ
(CRACK)
THEN I'LL
KEEP IT FOR YOU.

I THINK THE DAY WILL COME
WHEN YOU DECIDE THAT
YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR MOM'S FACE.
SO UNTIL THEN,
I'LL KEEP
THIS PICTURE FOR YOU.
YOU SAID
THAT YOU WANT
TO MOVE FORWARD,
RIGHT?
.....
ARE YOU SURE?
ALSO,
TSUBAKI-KUN...
NOD
IN THAT CASE,
RIGHT HERE
AND NOW...

...KISS ME.

I'M HOLDING ON TO SOMETHING
THAT'S VERY PRECIOUS TO YOU.
SO NOW I
WANT TO MOVE FORWARD, TOO...
WHAT?!

I WANT
TO DO THIS
GULP
ARE...
ARE YOU SURE?!
YES.

I WONDER IF ANYTHING WILL CHANGE...
IF...
IF WE ACTUALLY KISS...
OUR USUAL ROUTINE
WE WON'T CONTINUE
ANY LONGER.
WE'LL KISS BEFORE PARTING WAYS EVERY DAY FROM NOW ON.
KISSING IS SWAPPING DROOL FROM MOUTH TO MOUTH.
SO WE WON'T HAVE TO PUT OUR FINGERS IN EACH OTHER'S MOUTHS TO DO IT ANYMORE.
WHAT?!
AFTER ALL

TILT
ONCE WE'VE KISSED,
THAT SUNSET WILL LOOK DIFFERENT...
SHOULD I?

ヒソ
ヒソ
FREEZE
URABE.
LISTEN.
WHY DON'T WE
STOP HERE FOR TODAY...?

KISSING WOULD BE GREAT...
BUT LOSING OUR DAILY ROUTINE
WOULD BE
REALLY SAD, I THINK...
I THINK IT'S OKAY
TO JUST STAY AS WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN.
WHILE YOU AND I
ARE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL,
STILL WEARING THESE UNIFORMS ...
THEN WHEN?
IF NOT TODAY,
OF COURSE,
BUT...
I REALLY WANT TO...
HOW TO PUT IT...

YEAH.
I THINK SO, TOO.
UH-HUH.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
HERE.
OUR ROUTINE.

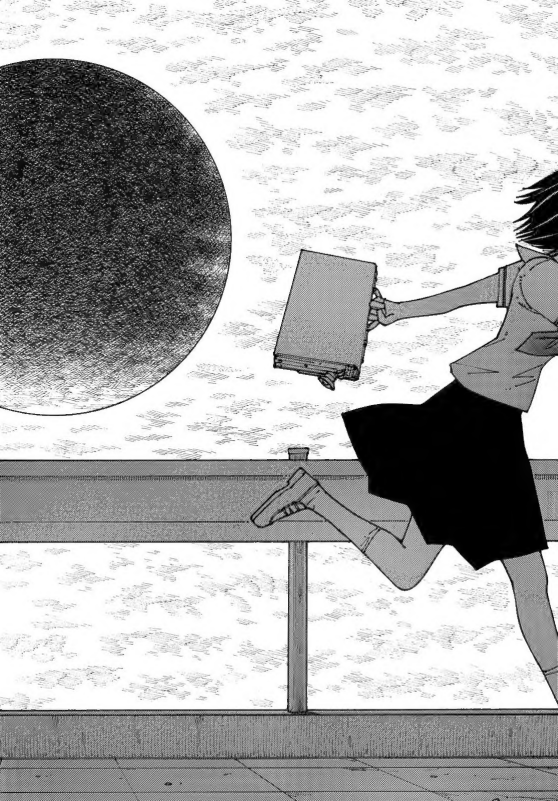
SCHLO
LISTEN...
TO PART
AGAIN...
THERE'S
SOMETHING
I WANT TO
TELL YOU...
I...
AH!
PART

YOUR NOSE IS BLEEDING...
HUH?
FINISH WHAT YOU WERE SAYING!
WHAT?!
I'LL BE CURIOUS NOW!
TO TELL YOU IN PERSON.
I GUESS I'M TOO WORKED UP
SHOOT...
AH...
IT'S...
NOT AS LONG AS WE'RE WEARING SCHOOL UNIFORMS.

UH...
DASH
SEC-
RET!
SECRET
A
I...
THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN THINKING.
UM... SISTER...
WA—
URABE!!
WAIT!!

WANT
TO BE
椿家之墓

WITH TSUBAKI-KUN
FOREVER AND EVER.
THAT'S HOW I FEEL.



謎の彼女X
おしまい
2014.9
BAD CAT
MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X THE END